

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO to help your child learn about grammar and punctuation

1

Talk to your child. Engage them in conversations that provide opportunities for them to construct sentences that give information and express ideas, desires, opinions and feelings.

2

Create a positive reading environment at home.

Reading with your child can help build their vocabulary and creates opportunities to develop knowledge about grammar.

3

Provide a variety of texts that your child can read independently or with you.

Reading picture books, poems and plays exposes children to the way we use language.

4

Help your child become familiar with correct word order in written and spoken sentences.

Ask your child to put words in the right order to make sentences and create stories.

5

Look at the punctuation in the books you are reading together.

Take the opportunity to identify simple punctuation – for example, ask ‘Who is hiding behind the door?’

6

Engage in storytelling activities with your child.

Role-play the action words (verbs) in the story, or in another story, play, poem or visual text.

7

Encourage your child to develop an interest in writing.

Do not focus too much on using correct grammar and punctuation when your child first starts to write.

8

Play games with your child.

With a bit of imagination, anything can be turned into a game.

9

Work with your child's teacher. Ask them for advice about activities that you could focus on at home to help your child.

10

Do not expect too much too soon.

Be confident in your child's abilities and proud of their achievements. Choose one area for your child to focus on improving and add other areas over time.